

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00453 251938Z

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DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ADMIRAL ZUMWALT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ZUMWALT, ELMO R., JR.)
SUBJECT: ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S VISIT TO ICELAND: BIOGRAPHIES OF
ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FOLLOWING ARE BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF PRIMIN, FONMIN AND THE
SEVEN MEMBERS OF ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WITH WHOM
ADMIRAL ZUMWALT WILL MEET. MORE DETAILED INFO ON THESE PERSONS
AS WELL AS THOSE ATTENDING SOCIAL FUNCTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE
ON ARRIVAL OF ZUMWALT PARTY.

OLAFUR JOHANNESSON - PRIME MINISTER SINCE 1970, CHAIRMAN OF
PROGRESSIVE PARTY (WHICH HOLDS 17 OF THE 60 SEATS IN ALTHING).
FORMER PROFESSOR OF LAW, PRO-NATO AND BASICALLY PRO-IDF.
HOWEVER, PRESIDES OVER COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH WIDELY DIFFERING
VIEWS ON ALMOST ALL SUBJECTS AND HEADS PARTY WHICH IS DIVIDED
WITHIN ITSELF. SEES MATTERS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN TERMS OF
ICELANDIC DOMESTIC POLITICS AND IS DETERMINED TO HOLD PRESENT
GOVERNMENT TOGETHER AT LEAST FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS AND HOPEFULLY
TO END OF TERM IN MID-1975. THEREFORE, HAS BEEN WILLING TO YIELD
TO LEFTIST PRESSURES ON DEFENSE MATTERS WHILE HOPING ANY CRITICAL
DECISIONS CAN BE POSTPONED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

EINAR AGUSTSSON - FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE 1970. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF
PROGRESSIVE PARTY. FORMER BANK OFFICIAL. PRO-NATO BUT A WEAK MAN
WHO IS EASILY SUBJECTED TO LEFTIST PRESSURES. HAVING TRIED TO
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00453 251938Z

BE ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN AND SAYING TO AUDIENCE OF MOMENT WHAT

HE THINKS AUDIENCE MAY WANT TO HEAR, AGUSTSSON HAS ENDED UP WITH BOTH HIS POLITICAL CREDIBILITY AND HIS CHANCES FOR EVENTUAL PARTY LEADERSHIP IMPAIRED.

THORARINN THORARINSSON - CHAIRMAN OF ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, EDITOR OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY NEWSPAPER TIMINN AND MEMBER OF PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. ACTIVE IN UN AFFIARS PARTICULARLY RELATING TO LAW OF SEA AND FAR EAST POLITICAL MATTERS. OPPOSED TO IDF ON GROUNDS OF "ADVERSE CULTURAL IMPACT" ON ICELAND AND "DEFENSE OF ICELAND IS UNNECESSARY SINCE THERE WILL BE NO WAR." ALLIED WITH ISOLATPONISTS, NATIONALISTS, AND LEFT-WINGERS IN PARTY. PARTICULARLY ANTI-US ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO FAR EAST, ESPECIALLY VEHEMENT ON VIETNAM.

EYSTEINN JONSSON - PRESIDENT OF UNITED ALTHING (TOP RANKING MEMBER), ELDER STATESMAN OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY. SKILLED POLITICAL OPERATOR WHO SEIZES ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER CAUSE OF HIS PARTY. ACTIVE IN BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING PARTICULARLY THAT AIMED AT BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS OF HIS PARTY. OPPOSED TO IDF PROBABLY PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT IS DIVISIVE ISSUE FOR PROGRESSIVES. IS AN ACTIVE CONSERVATIONIST. HAS EXPRESSED DISLIKE OF IDF BECAUSE IT IS AN EYESORE, ESPECIALLY THE OPEN DUMP THERE.

GILS GUDMUNDSSON - PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVE ON COMMITTEE. IN FOREFRONT FOR SOME YEARS IN AGITATING AGAINST DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WITH US AND NATO MEMBERSHIP. HAS ALSO LED IN LEFT-WING FIGHT FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST OBJECTIVES SUCH AS RECOGNITION OF EAST GERMANY, NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA. TAKES ALL POSSIBLE OCCASIONS FOR CRITICISM OF US.

GYLFI GISLASON - CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. STRONGLY PRO-NATO AND PRO-US, HE ADVOCATES MAINTENANCE OF IDF WITH MODIFICATIONS WHICH CALL FOR EVENTUAL FULL OPERATIONS BY ICELANDERS AFTER LONG STUDY. HAS LONG BEEN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE WITH US OFFICIALS. IS AMBITIOUS TO BE FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEXT GOVERNMENT.

MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON - MINISTER OF EDUCATION REPRESENTING LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS PARTY. FAVORS CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN NATO BUT HAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 REYKJA 00453 251938Z

UNTIL RECENTLY OPPOSED IDF. RECENT SHIFT MAY REFLECT STRONG DISLIKE OF PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE RATHER THAN OBJECTIVE EVALUATION. HAS IN PAST OFTEN BEEN CRITICAL OF US POLICIES HAVING SPOKEN AT VIETNAM RALLIES AND OTHER ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

GEIR HALLGRIMSSON - CHAIRMAN OF INDEPENDENCE PARTY. STRONGLY PRO-NATO, PRO-IDF, AND PRO-US. CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE INTENDED TO BRING OUT MOST POSITIVE ASPECTS OF

AREA STRATEGIC SITUATION AND US-ICELANDIC DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP.

MATTHIAS A. MATHIESSEN - MEMBER OF INDEPENDENCE PARTY WHO MAY BE
NEXT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PARTY. STRONGLY PRO-NATO, HE BELIEVES
ICELAND CAN CONTRIBUTE TO COMMON EFFORT ONLY THROUGH MAKING ITS
GEOGRAPHY AVAILABLE. THEREFORE, SUPPORTS CONTINUING DEFENSE
RELATIONSHIP BUT WITH WHATEVER MODIFICATIONS MAY BE POSSIBLE.

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